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Friday, February 8, 2002

# Graduate Applicants Markedly Increase

By Eric J. Cholankeril

SENIOR EDITOR

Applications for admission to MIT's graduate programs are up by more than 800 this year, or about 10 percent, as many college graduates face a crippled job market due to the weak economy.

According to Associate Director of Admissions Elizabeth S. Johnson, 11,617 graduate applications have been entered thus far into the MIT admissions office database for matriculation in the 2002-2003 school year. This number does not include applicants to the Sloan School of Management or Master of Science in Engineering (MEng) applicants from within MIT.

Last year, the Admissions Office recorded a total of 10,798 applications, excluding applicants to the Sloan School and internal MEng applicants.

Departments "may still be accepting qualified applicants," Johnson said, noting that the numbers were not final. "We're definitely up, but we'll be up even more when the dust settles."

## Faltering economy to blame

Many feel that application numbers are up this year for graduate programs mainly due to the faltering economy. "I think [the high number of applications] is probably related to the economy being down," Johnson said.

Regan agreed, noting that similar statistics were observed during "the economic downturn in the 1980s."

However, Kathryn M. Kaminski

Grad Students, Page 12

# New Alcohol Dean Trujillo Assesses Campus Drinking

By Christine R. Fry

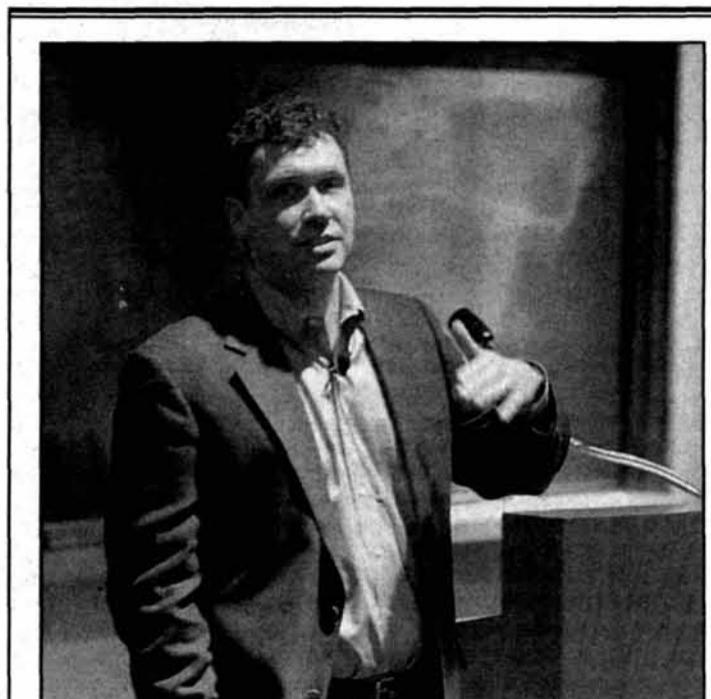
STAFF REPORTER

Daniel A. Trujillo became MIT's first-ever Associate Dean for Alcohol Education and Community Development starting Jan. 1. Trujillo previously served as Alcohol Coordinator for the State University of New York.

**The Tech:** What do you think the current attitude toward alcohol is on campus?

**Trujillo:** I think it's very mixed, and I think it depends upon who you ask that question to. I'll give you my impression. Overall it's not in the forefront of anyone's thinking. I seriously doubt most students think about alcohol every hour of every day. Most students do not have an issue with alcohol.

**The Tech:** When you say "most



Sean Willems, co-founder and chief scientist of Optiant, speaks about dealing with venture capitalist firm Battery at the MIT \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition Spring Kick-Off Wednesday night. Optiant, which develops web-based supply chain optimization solutions, was one of several companies that arose as a result of last year's competition.

TIMOTHY W. SUEN—THE TECH

# MIT Loses Community Service Work-Study Funds

By Christine R. Fry

STAFF REPORTER

Federal Work-Study (FWS) funds allocated to students receiving financial aid at MIT are being grossly underused, according to MIT Student Financial Services (SFS).

Jane D. Smith, assistant director of SFS, said that out of \$167,000 MIT has received in FWS community service grants for this year, \$100,000 has yet to be spent for the 2002 spring semester.

"We're going to spend as much [of the] money as we can," Smith said.

The Boston Globe reported Sunday that only two percent of the FWS funds given to MIT last year was spent on students participating in

community service projects. Government regulations require that seven percent of FWS funds given to colleges and universities are specifically allocated towards students doing community service projects. By failing to meet the quota, MIT was forced to return approximately \$75,000 in unused federal funds.

Smith called this an "oversight," but said she was optimistic about the program's future.

## Service opportunities lack publicity

One reason the community service FWS grants have not been used may be due to the lack of publicity for service opportunities available to students.

"We haven't presented [FWS

# Shin Family Lawyer Subpoenas Students

By Keith J. Winstein

STAFF REPORTER

At least three current or former MIT students, including former section editors of The Tech, have been subpoenaed to be deposed in the lawsuit against MIT filed by the parents of Elizabeth H. Shin '02.

David A. DeLuca, who represents the Shin family, has subpoenaed at least three MIT students to testify under oath. DeLuca confirmed that he had subpoenaed James Paris '03, a Random Hall resident named in the complaint as having alerted MIT authorities of Shin's suicidal nature on several occasions.

DeLuca also confirmed the issuance of subpoenas to former section editors of The Tech. However, he declined to name those who were subpoenaed.

DeLuca explained the latter subpoenas by saying that he hoped to benefit from the information the editors had collected after researching Shin's death.

"I am looking for as much information as I can get. I understand the suicide has been of great concern to The Tech," DeLuca said.

While questioning journalists under oath regarding unpublished information obtained in the course of reporting could have possible First Amendment implications, DeLuca said that the students would be able to decline to answer questions about information they believe to be privileged.

## State limits tort claims to \$20,000

The Shins' case initially appears similar to a 1993 Rhode Island lawsuit, Klein v. Solomon. In that case, Susan Klein, the mother of a Brown University student, sued her son's school-recommended psychologist for negligent treatment following his suicide.

Under the doctrine of "respondeat superior," which means "let the

Shin, Page 16

by word of mouth. It's really easy to get involved," Miller said.

However, Susnowitz added that time plays an important role in what type of FWS position a student chooses. For many students, an on-campus job is easier to manage than off-campus community service work.

## Service programs available

Students interested in community service FWS, have a few different options available to them.

For the America Reads program, MIT hired a literacy trainer to instruct students on how to teach elementary school children to read. The students then used these skills to tutor children

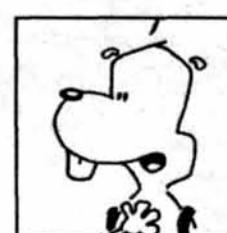
Work-Study, Page 19



Dancers from Dramashop's "Sea Change" re-enact the story of an immigrant being separated from her love. "Sea Change," an actor-created dramatic presentation discussing the immigrant experience in America, is showing in Kresge Little Theater at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this weekend and next weekend.

## NEWS

MIT will admit fewer undergraduates to maintain smaller freshman class sizes.



## Comics

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## OPINION

Peter Jung questions some of the MIT community's response to the Shin lawsuit.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Skilling Says He Was Unaware Of Enron's Financial Problems

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Enron Corp.'s former chief executive told a skeptical House subcommittee Thursday that he was unaware of financial problems at the company when he left four months before it collapsed, a position contradicted by two senior Enron executives who testified they repeatedly warned him about conflicts of interest that enriched some insiders.

"I did not believe the company was in any financial peril," said Jeffrey Skilling, who testified under oath after Andrew Fastow, the company's onetime chief financial officer, and three other senior executives cited their Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination in refusing to answer questions.

Skilling, who resigned unexpectedly last Aug. 14, said he was unaware that Fastow and other Enron officials collected more than \$40 million from off-the-books partnerships whose failure last fall led to the company's collapse.

Jeffrey McMahon, a former Enron treasurer, and Jordan Mintz, a senior attorney, testified that they had tried to tell Skilling their concerns that the partnerships benefited Fastow and others, not Enron.

Skilling firmly denied knowing about any wrongdoing or efforts to conceal Enron's losses from investors.

"I was not aware of any financing arrangements designed to conceal liabilities or inflate profitability," he said in his opening statement to the House panel. "The financial statements issued by Enron, as far as I knew, accurately reflected the financial condition of the company." But Skilling frequently responded, under questioning, that he could not recall being present at crucial meetings or events that lawmakers said foreshadowed Enron's demise.

## Byrd Berates O'Neill Over Budget

THE WASHINGTON POST

Tensions between Congress and the White House over the president's budget exploded Thursday when a debate over congressional prerogatives turned into an unusually bitter and personal exchange involving two of Washington's most powerful figures: Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., and Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill.

The spat rocked an otherwise routine Senate Budget Committee hearing, where the normal dance of senatorial courtesy — and polite groveling by administration witnesses — suddenly vanished. O'Neill, telling Byrd he wouldn't "cede to you the high moral ground of not knowing what life is like in a ditch," seemed to struggle with his emotions by often taking deep breaths.

Byrd, 84, chairs the powerful Appropriations Committee and is arguably the fiercest defender of Congress's interests. He spent 15 minutes berating O'Neill, a straight-talking former corporate executive, for a speech the secretary made last year asserting that congressional rules "created by just ordinary people" are "like the Lilliputians tying us to the ground."

Byrd noted that the administration's glossy new budget document includes a cartoon of Gulliver tied down by Lilliputians. He denounced the cartoon — one of several illustrations of White House sentiments and criticisms — as "nonsense" that belittled how Congress represents the interests of Americans.

Since Monday's release of the president's budget plan, which vividly poked fun at alleged congressional pork, lawmakers from both parties have bristled at the administration's rhetoric. The chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Bill Young, R-Fla., sent a tart letter Wednesday to the White House budget director, saying that "all wisdom on the allocation of grant funding does not reside in the Executive branch."

"A lot of us were here before you came," Byrd sternly told O'Neill at Thursday's hearing. He noted that he'd seen many secretaries of the Treasury during his half century in Congress, and that no one elected O'Neill. "With all respect to you, you are not Alexander Hamilton," Byrd said.

## Rodent Forecasts

By Robert Korty

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

In spite of the groundhog's forecast for six more weeks of winter last Saturday, there is still no snow in our immediate future. Even the cold temperatures of earlier this week have moderated back to levels slightly above the climatological average.

Low pressure over the Northern Rockies today will move east into the Great Plains states on Saturday. Meanwhile, high pressure centered over Ontario today will pass over New England and then move offshore by Sunday. Southerly winds on the backside of the high and in advance of the low to our west will advect milder air into the region on Sunday. Rain will overspread the area Sunday; skies will clear and temperatures will cool again on Monday.

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Mostly sunny and breezy. High in the lower 40s F (5° to 6°C).

**Tonight:** Clear. Low in the lower 20s F (-6° to -4°C).

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny. High near 35°F (2°C).

**Sunday:** Cloudy with rain developing. High in the middle to upper 40s F (7° to 9°C).

**Sunday night:** Rain. Low near 40°F (4°C).

**Monday:** Rain ending early, then clearing and turning colder. High near 40°F (4°C) early.

## Interrogations to Begin Soon For Illegal Mideastern Aliens

By Dan Eggen

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

Federal agents will soon begin apprehending and interrogating thousands of illegal Middle Eastern immigrants who have ignored deportation orders, seeking ways to prosecute any who have ties to terrorism and compiling the results of interviews in a new computer database, according to a Justice Department memo.

The Jan. 25 memo instructs federal agents to find methods of detaining some of the immigrants for possible criminal charges, rather than merely expelling them from the United States as previously planned.

The tactics are part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service's efforts to locate an estimated 314,000 foreign nationals, known as "absconders," who have ignored court orders to leave the country. Justice Department and FBI officials have said that the operation would focus first on about 6,000 immigrants from countries identified as al-Qaeda strongholds, though the vast majority of absconders are Latin American.

Thursday, officials said the arrests will begin next week with a group of fewer than 1,000 illegal immigrants, most from the Middle

East and Pakistan, who are believed to be the most dangerous because they are convicted felons.

The "Absconder Apprehension Initiative" is the latest example of the Justice Department's wide-ranging efforts to thwart terrorism by increasing its focus on domestic intelligence gathering. So far this campaign has involved, in part, compiling information on foreign nationals living in the United States both legally and illegally.

The internal department memo, sent to anti-terrorism officials by Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson and obtained by The Washington Post, shows that the FBI and Justice Department have created a special computerized reporting system that already includes information gathered from recent interviews with thousands of Middle Eastern men who were invited to come forth voluntarily. Results from the new round of interrogations will be added to the database.

U.S. officials are forming special "apprehension teams" that include agents from the FBI, the U.S. Marshals Service and the INS, according to the memo.

Justice Department officials said it is logical to start the absconder

program by gathering information on people living here who may have ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, which has been blamed for the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington.

"We can't go after 314,000 people at a time, so it only makes sense to prioritize them in a way that makes sense from a law enforcement perspective," said one senior Justice Department official. "If we didn't do this, then we should be criticized."

But the absconder program's initial focus on Middle Eastern nationals has renewed complaints from Arab American and civil liberties groups that the Bush administration is practicing racial profiling in its war on terrorism.

Khalil Jahshan, vice president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee here, said Thursday that information in the special terrorism database could be used to unfairly smear the reputations of innocent individuals.

"This whole path the government is taking is clearly a case of racial profiling," Jahshan said. "It's clearly a case of selective enforcement. ... These half-baked methods seem totally isolated from a whole tradition of respect for civil liberties."

## Sharon Presses Bush on Arafat

By Alan Sipress

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON

President Bush assured visiting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon Thursday he would continue to press the Palestinian authority to crack down on terrorism but balked at the Israeli leader's call for isolating PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Sharon's visit comes at a time when the United States has all but adopted Israel's view that the dominant problem in the Middle East is Palestinian violence and that peace talks can only resume after Arab militant groups are brought to heel.

Bush made clear his longstanding exasperation with Arafat, whose credibility in Washington hit a new low last month after Israeli commandos intercepted a ship seeking to smuggle 50 tons of arms into the Palestinian areas.

"I can't be any more clear in my

position, and that is that he must do everything in his power to fight terror," Bush told reporters after the nearly hourlong meeting. "Obviously, we were at first surprised and then extremely disappointed when the Karine A showed up, loaded with weapons, weapons that could've only been intended for one thing, which was to terrorize."

Sharon's visit to the White House, his fourth since taking office a year ago, underscores the extent of Arafat's estrangement from Washington. Once a frequent visitor during the Clinton administration, Bush has refused him an invitation.

But the president's harsh rhetoric and diplomatic snubbing of Arafat fall short of making the Palestinian leader "irrelevant" as Sharon has sought. While the Bush administration wants Arafat to change his ways, Sharon wants to bypass him and seek out other Palestinian lead-

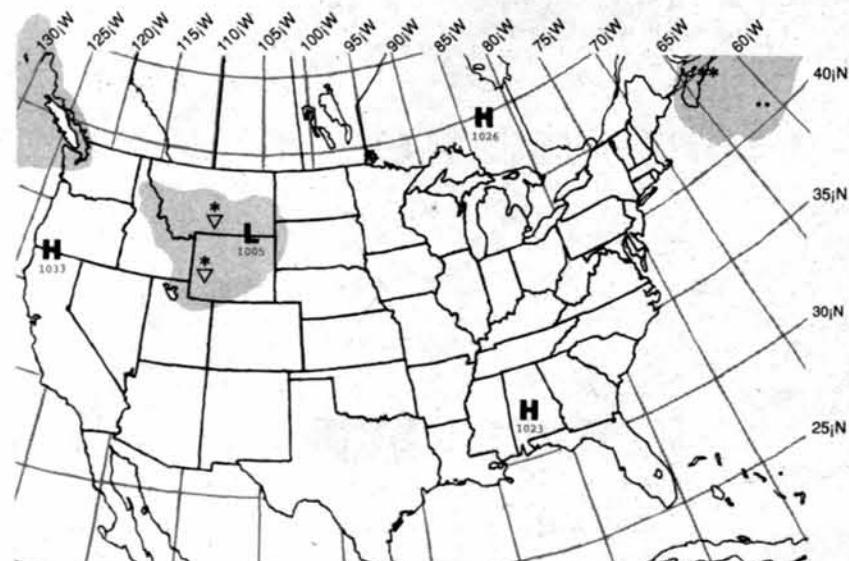
ers who would act more vigorously to protect Israelis.

"I personally, myself and my government, regard Arafat as an obstacle to peace," Sharon said. "Arafat has chosen a strategy of terror and formed a coalition of terror. Therefore, we believe that pressure should be put on Arafat in order, we hope, to have an alternative leadership in the future."

State Department officials in recent days have noted several positive steps taken by Arafat's security forces toward controlling violence, including arresting some militants and breaking up munitions factories. The Palestinian leader, meantime, sent a letter last week to Secretary of State Colin Powell via the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem acknowledging American concerns about the arms smuggling plot and promising to punish those Palestinians who were involved.

## WEATHER

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Friday, February 8, 2002



### Weather Systems

**H** High Pressure

**L** Low Pressure

**S** Hurricane

### Weather Fronts

- - - Trough

— Warm Front

▲▲▲ Cold Front

○○○ Stationary Front

### Precipitation Symbols

Snow Rain

Shower ▲ ▽

Light \* \*

Moderate \*\*\* ..

Heavy \*\*\* ..

### Other Symbols

≡ Fog

RK Thunderstorm

∞ Haze

Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

# Bush Grants Taliban Detainees Geneva Convention Protection

By Mike Allen  
and John Mintz  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Following protests from allies around the world, President Bush announced Thursday that the United States will grant the protections of the Geneva Convention to detainees who fought for Afghanistan's Taliban but will continue to deny them to members of the al-Qaida terrorist network.

Until now, the administration had denied that the 158 captives at the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, were covered by the Geneva Conventions, which ensure treatment of wartime captives is humane and subject to international law.

International lawyers said it could be argued that Bush's decision will curtail some tactics being used in interrogating Taliban fighters at the detention center, nicknamed Camp X-Ray. The lawyers said the decision strengthens the argument that the Taliban captives should be repatriated when hostilities cease.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, announcing the decision at a hastily scheduled afternoon briefing, said the decision about the detainees "will not change their material life on a day-to-day basis." The United States said it already was providing food and medical treatment and allowing the captives to practice their religion, which are

other issues covered by the convention.

Fleischer said the administration is making the distinction in status of defenders of the Taliban regime, which controlled Afghanistan, and al-Qaida because Afghanistan is a party to the Geneva Convention.

"Although the United States does not recognize the Taliban as the legitimate Afghani government, the president determined that the Taliban members are covered under the treaty because Afghanistan is a party to the convention," Fleischer said. "Al-Qaida is an international terrorist group and cannot be considered a state party to the Geneva Convention."

## Bad Weather Prevents Verification Of CIA Strike on al-Qaida Convoy

By Steve Vogel  
and Walter Pincus  
THE WASHINGTON POST

Bad weather is preventing U.S. military forces from surveying the site of a CIA-launched missile strike in eastern Afghanistan to verify whether a senior al-Qaida leader and other members of the terrorist network were killed in the attack, defense officials said Thursday.

Gen. Tommy Franks, head of the U.S. Central Command, said the Hellfire missile fired by an unmanned aircraft hit its intended target, but he said the weather in the mountainous area made it difficult to establish who was killed.

"Folks can't get to it," another defense official said. "It's at 11,000

feet. It's extremely difficult because of the weather."

The attack Monday near Zhawar Kili, 30 miles southwest of the city of Khost, was launched by an armed Predator surveillance drone operated by the CIA. The Predator had come across and followed for two days a convoy of sport utility vehicles because U.S. intelligence officers determined they could be al-Qaida leaders, U.S. officials said.

On Monday, the vehicles were parked at a previously known al-Qaida camp and the officers noticed a group, protected by security personnel, in which other individuals were showing "a great deal of deference to a person much taller than the others," according to a senior

administration official.

With no U.S. fighter aircraft in the vicinity, the CIA officers fired a Hellfire missile at the group. The explosion apparently killed one or more of the individuals, the official said. Officials said they were not claiming the tall individual was Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader whose whereabouts have been unknown since December. Bin Laden is believed to be between 6 feet 4 inches and 6 feet 6 inches tall. In Afghanistan, an Afghan leader told the Associated Press that the strike killed seven members of al-Qaida. Bin Laden "is not among those people," said Wazir Khan, brother of warlord Bacha Khan, according to the AP.

## Senate Acts to Cap Farm Subsidies

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON

In an effort to rein in large payments to corporate agriculture, the Senate voted Thursday to cap annual federal subsidies at \$275,000 per farm family.

The amendment, approved on a voice vote after an effort to derail it was defeated 66 to 31, also would make the nation's richest farmers ineligible for federal crop support.

The amendment represents an effort by senators to target assistance to small and mid-sized family farms, as well as change the image of agriculture subsidies, which have become increasingly viewed as another form of corporate welfare.

"Capping farm payments will restore integrity to farm programs," said Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, one of the amendment's authors.

The Senate also heeded a request from President Bush and voted to restore food stamp benefits to legal immigrants who have been in the country for five years.

The votes came as part of debate of a five-year farm bill that would undo a 1996 law that aimed to wean farmers off federal subsidies. Overall, the bill would expand federal financial support for farmers, many of whom have been struggling through tough economic times for years, and would increase agriculture funding by \$45 billion over five years.

A final vote on the Senate's farm bill is expected next week.

## Microsoft and Justice Department Jointly File for Shortened Hearing

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Microsoft Corp. and the Justice Department asked a federal judge Thursday to condense a fairness hearing on their controversial antitrust settlement to a single day and bar competitors from speaking.

In a joint filing, the two sides said the federal court weighing the proposed resolution of the case has more than enough written commentary — an unprecedented 10,000 pages.

About 30,000 people submitted comments to the Justice Department during the prescribed 60-day period, ranging from detailed 100-page analyses to such terse statements as "I hate Microsoft."

The substantive comments ran 2 to 1 against the deal, according to Thursday's filing. Among other things, the settlement would forbid Microsoft retaliating against companies that install non-Microsoft programs on personal computers.

Nine states oppose the deal and will push at a March trial for harsher remedies, including publication of the source code for Microsoft's now-dominant Web browser.

The new filing asks that only the states supporting the agreement — not private companies — be permitted to debate the proposed settlement at the fairness hearing, which could come in early March.

# want to talk?

- MIT Medical's Mental Health Service has walk-in hours every weekday from 2-4pm
- Visits are free for MIT students

### Mental Health Service

- E23-368, MIT Medical third floor
- Appointments 617/ 253-2916
- Walk-in care weekdays 2-4pm
- Emergency mental health care 617/ 253-2916 (24 hours)
- Other resources: [web.mit.edu/medlinks/](http://web.mit.edu/medlinks/)



# you are not alone

Brought to you by the Student/Staff Mental Health Task Force: e-mail [mh-taskforce@mit.edu](mailto:mh-taskforce@mit.edu)

# OPINION


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SOMETHING DEFINITELY SEEMED DIFFERENT ABOUT DICK CHENEY

## Letters To The Editor

### Visas Not Accepted

The Feb. 5 article entitled "Proposed Visa Ban Mobilizes Students" quotes Middle Eastern Club President Mehdi Yahyanejad's objection to the new restriction on the granting of visas to people from countries that sponsor terrorism: "This bill makes everyone from certain nations guilty until proven innocent." This comment misappropriates a famous concept that many people in this country consider to be a natural law of fairness for use in a context in which it does not belong.

"Guilt" and "innocence" only apply to governmental actions in the sense that a government may use an individual's guilt as a justification to deprive that person of rights that any innocent person is entitled to. Crossing a border into a foreign country in order to reap the benefits of that country's unique qualities, however, is not a right to which people are entitled, but a privilege that governments may grant as they see fit. In order to obtain this (or any) privilege, it makes sense for people to have to prove their worthiness of it, and to remain presumed unworthy (not "guilty") until proven worthy. In addition, the government has every right (not to mention responsibility) to restrict this privilege in ways that are expected to protect the safety and security of its country's inhabitants.

I would suggest that opponents of the new rule concentrate their efforts on proposing ways to demonstrate that specific students' entries into this country do not constitute threats to national security instead of trying to convince people that this is a case of deprivation of rights.

Isaac Moses '03

### Limited Liability

I have read coverage in The Tech of Eliza-

beth Shin's suicide and her family's lawsuit. I work at a small private university in Seattle, Washington. Besides my general interest in academia, I am the parent of a daughter who completed her bachelor's degree at Columbia in 1994.

I am very sorry for the Shin family's loss, and for the terrible impact the suicide must have had on Ms. Shin's floor-mates and other acquaintances.

I agree with the editorial position that the Shin family would do well to share any settlement with MIT. Even more strongly, I feel that their case is weak. Surely they knew that their daughter was a very troubled person. There is a moral limit to the amount of responsibility anyone can assign to "others" when a family member is in trouble, and I hope the court finds that there is also a legal limit.

Susan Mullen  
Seattle, Washington

### Innocents Abroad

Akshay Patil believes that his time in Inchon International Airport gave him a "small glimpse into Korean culture." Indeed, "small" is an understatement, but only because of his inability to expand his perspective.

Usually when people encounter new cultures, they admit their inexperience, show a willingness to learn, and finally develop understanding. Mr. Patil readily admits his inexperience, but he inexplicably stops there.

He seems surprised that Korean is spoken on a Korean flight, yet unnecessarily points out the flight attendants' broken English. (I'd like to hear Mr. Patil's broken Korean; to mock anyone's attempt at a non-native language is callous.)

About Korean rap, he says, "I'm not used

to it," but then dismissively adds "and so it strikes me as comical."

Or, Mr. Patil finds it "hilarious" that Korean Duty Free shops display ginseng. But just a few moments reading a guidebook or surfing the Web would explain that Korea has an ideal climate for growing ginseng and for this reason Korean ginseng is prized in East Asian medicine. And like many expensive, regional products, it has found a niche in duty-free sales.

With a broader perspective, the author could have written a column not comprised of high-handed comments and superficial observations. A little tolerance goes a long way.

In the future, I hope The Tech will only publish travel journals that display greater sensitivity to other cultures.

Gina Kim '02

## Erratum

Due to an editor's error, the letter by Dawn Perlner '01 entitled "Parental Responsibility" [Feb. 5] contained an incomplete sentence. It should have read:

"If her parents had been notified about her problems, they could have either talked to her about it, which would probably embarrass her and only add to her stress, making her death even more imminent, or take it into account without letting her know they knew... in which case, their only benefit would be knowing ahead of time that she would probably succeed at some point in killing herself."

### Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors, features editor, and opinion editors.

**Dissents** are the opinions of the signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Columns and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

**Letters to the editor** are welcome. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m.

two days before the date of publication.

**Letters and cartoons** must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. No letter or cartoon will be printed anonymously without the express prior approval of The Tech. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. The Tech makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

### To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure who to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. The Tech can be found on the World-Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

# Unfair Attacks On Shin

Guest Column  
Peter Jung

While I hesitate to take sides in the pending lawsuit, I must take exception to the arguments made by Dawn Perlner '01 in her letter ["Parental Responsibility," Feb. 5] and Michael J. Salib G in his guest column ["Give Us the Whole Truth"].

Let's take the letter first. Perlner states, "It seems to me the parents are failing to take responsibility for their role in their daughter's death." I fail to see support for this claim. It's funny that I never read anything about personal or parental responsibility during the Krueger aftermath. Where was the outrage then?

She concludes that "Elizabeth wanted to die because she felt she could never be the daughter her parents expected. If one cannot fulfill the hopes and dreams of those who gave you life, how can your life be justified in continuing?" This is a gross oversimplification of the complex issues of depression and suicide, and it overlooks the fact that many, dare I say most, children do not fulfill their parents' initial expectations yet have no desire to kill themselves.

Perlner goes on to state, "If her parents had been notified about her problems, they could have either talked to her about it, which would probably embarrass her and only add to her stresses, making her death even more imminent..." If her parents knew how deep her problems ran, they would have done everything they could to relieve the pressure and stress on their daughter. All parents, given a choice, would rather die than see their children die.

I hope the last paragraph of the letter was a joke. Let's just go on to the guest column. Salib's main point seems to be that the Shins' story is speculative and incomplete. A rather ironic thesis, since Salib's column is entirely based on loose "conspiracy-theory" conclusions reading far too much into what the Shins say and don't say. More importantly, he fails to directly address their most powerful points.

Here are a few no-brainers. In paragraph three, Salib suggests that the Shins should "release the medical records to the public." Please, show some freaking respect. Do you realize that medical records include psycho-

logical evaluations and in-depth descriptions of personal narratives? In paragraph eight, he claims that public opinion can win lawsuits or settlements. History begs to differ. Can you say O.J.? How about Rodney King? Paragraph ten was especially incoherent and irritating. In paragraph eleven, he states, "Somehow I doubt they would have seen better medical care at a random state university with 40,000 students and four staff psychiatrists." Somehow I doubt they would have seen any school with as many messed-up kids as at MIT. Greater problems call for greater measures. The people at the Medical Center aren't incompetent, but they are severely understaffed.

And the "sympathy" paragraph he tacked onto the end was most unconvincing, given his column's persistent use of callous sarcasm, especially with the snide selfishness presented in the previous paragraph. I wonder indeed, Mr. Salib, how much of \$27 million would you and the current students have to pay? Are you saying that the Shins don't work hard? Are you calling them thieves? You've pretty much already called them liars.

Salib tries to portray himself as an enlightened skeptic, wary of jumping to conclusions or taking sides. But it seems to me that he's already done both.

As the reader can probably tell, reading these articles made me quite angry. Perhaps the authors' positions stemmed from their ignorance of such issues as being an Asian-American, or depression. So I have decided to give my own personal take. I shall make my own bad generalizations that might have absolutely nothing to do with Elizabeth, but I think the flavor presented is worth reading.

There are many misunderstandings between first-generation and second-generation Asian-Americans. Very often, the parents have made it big despite coming to this country with next to nothing. They want their children to be better off than they were, and the only way they know how to facilitate that is through education. They pressure their chil-

dren to excel (and judging by their picture, the Shins look pretty hardcore), and communication is often reduced to updates on the children's latest achievements. This, in addition to gaps in age, culture, and language, can eliminate dialogues of a personal nature. The children feel implicit and explicit pressure to succeed, out of honor, pride, even fear. Too often, they shy away from divulging problems, especially personal ones. Think Christians and "God," Old-Testament style. Getting the idea?

One of the most difficult obstacles of depression to overcome is to admit your problem and reach out for help, especially from people who are close. This is a result not so much of embarrassment but of shame, guilt, and possibly persistent denial.

Combine these two factors, and you have someone who is extremely reluctant to tell the folks about problems. Personally, if I wanted to hurt

myself, I'd want my parents to know about it (whether I liked it or not). I'd want to know if my wife or kids were having problems too. It's not about being treated like a baby. It's about life, love, and death.

Should the Shins win the lawsuit? I doubt it. Are there serious problems with MIT's Mental Health? You bet. Should MIT be held responsible for every student who decides to bite the dust? Certainly not. Anyone can point fingers, at Mental Health, the administration, the residence system, the academics, the parents, or the victim herself. Even we students might be unwittingly responsible for contributing to a dreary and apathetic atmosphere. But I don't play the blame game. There's a lot to be learned from Elizabeth's story, though, and I hope some changes are made. By all of us.

And just in case you think you truly sympathize with her parents, think again. Seeing your child die? Truly tragic. Conceiving of the idea that you might have had something to do with it? It's enough to make me cry.

Peter Jung is a member of the Class of 2001.

# View From An Alternate Cambridge

Maral Shamloo

Reg Day is here and suddenly I realize the second term has started. My second and last term at MIT. I look back to think about the past five months, with their ups and downs. I remember moments I wished I had never come, and the moments that I thought I was in heaven — well, something like that.

It was a challenging experience to say the least, being thrown into an alien environment, expected to be a junior when I was a freshman to everything around me: people, work, classes, buildings, the city, and even the culture. It wasn't long ago when I thought everything here was so strange: people, work habits, entertainment activities. I would walk in Lobeck and hear people talk about their project over dinner, I would see people working at 4:00 a.m. in the coffeehouse, I would hear that labs are open till dawn, and I would hear people refer to their courses and lecture halls with a bunch of num-

*It was a challenging experience, being thrown into an alien environment, expected to be a junior when I was a freshman to everything around me: people, work, classes, buildings, the city, and even the culture.*

bers. Everything seemed to be a statement to the rest of the world: "We are clever."

And then I experienced MIT's social life dilemma! I missed Cambridge's structured and "normal" social gatherings. We all had time set aside for our formal halls, bops, and pub crawls. None of that seemed to happen at MIT. Instead, there were free parties sponsored by the Institute or department; there were study breaks and free Aramark food floating everywhere, the sole incentive to get people out of their rooms. It was depressing, to say the least. The whole combination drove me to the point that I hated MIT.

But I survived, mainly because of the people around me. Everybody was so welcoming and friendly. I had formed my circle of friends very soon after arriving in September. But still, there was an unresolved issue: why did all these people, who seemed pretty normal to me, enjoy being at MIT to such a degree?

Then I saw IAP, when many Cambridge students went back to England for all of January just because they had had enough. I decided to give it another chance. It was the second week of IAP and things had already started to get better, but it was only at Leadershape that I found the missing piece of the jigsaw puzzle.

We had to come up with a vision. Any vision. The only restriction was to choose something that we truly cared about. I think it was the third evening when we posted our vision statements, written brightly on chart papers around the largest room of the conference center where we were staying. I went round the room and read them, every single one of them. And there, for the first time, I found the magic word that keeps MIT and its people together: community.

All those visions involved MIT in one way or the other. All of them described the picture of a happier and more accommodating environment, the picture of a better place for its members.

MIT — whether I like it or not — is what its members want it to be. They work on it as students, they graduate and become alumni, alumni become professors and admissions administrators, professors become chancellors and presidents and, along with administrators, they take in the people who would fit the place best and would share the same values and ideas, people who would care about the community just as much as the generations before them did.

I might not belong to this community, and I might not share the passion some of its members have, but one thing is for sure: I respect the community. I have a deep respect which allows me to understand and enjoy the "different" behaviors here, a respect which I can never overcome to hate MIT again.

Maral Shamloo is studying at MIT through the Cambridge-MIT Institute.

# Escaping the Cycle Of Suffering

Guest Column  
Andrew C. Thomas

This week marks another beginning of the great cycle of pain for the MIT population. After a much-needed six week break (or whatever you prefer), we students will once again make textbook manufacturers rich and put our noses to the collective grindstone. We will become familiar with a new group of professors and teaching assistants, whom we will in short time blame for making our lives a living hell. And for the most part, we'll be justified.

This isn't to say that I dislike my professors or TAs, or blame them personally for making my life miserable. With only a couple of exceptions, all of my professors, current or previous, have been fairly likeable people. None ever had a personal grudge against students in the class. And none taught their classes while threatening to shoot any student who was unable to answer a question asked point-blank.

However, the fact remains that MIT is primarily a research institution. And as such, professors are hired and tenured on their ability to perform in the lab, not in the classroom. Rather than being able to



want to teach courses, it is mandated that all professors must teach at least one class. This means that since selective emphasis is placed less on teaching ability, while the Institute picks up many brilliant minds, they may not be able to properly communicate their passion to their students. I'm sure someone up high had it in mind that the best way to learn a subject is from the brightest people in the field — and rightly so, as the UROP program and millennia of apprenticeships have demonstrated — but that system is not working as well as it can here.

*MIT is in serious need of professors with a love not only for their subject but for passing the knowledge along to others. Perhaps the solution is to hire more teaching professionals.*

in any volume — professors on the whole do little to stimulate a love for the material. Those professors who love to teach and put a great deal more energy into their courses than their counterparts often have to pay the price of time spent on their research. Graduate students have their own problems; they are here first to fulfill their own scholastic obligations, second as full-time employees. Teaching is somewhat divided between these two priori-

ties. This is why despite their comparative lack of experience in the field, undergraduate teaching assistants get my vote. Here is a group of students, enthusiastic in their field of study, wanting to further their experience by helping others below them understand what they do. Only the most dedicated choose to fill this role, and those who do often go on to teaching careers themselves. Again, the apprenticeship model, learning from the master, shows itself to be an effective means of education. But the problem remains. MIT is in serious need of professors with a love not only for their subject but for passing the knowledge along to others. Perhaps the solution is to hire more teaching professionals, those who choose not to undergo research and only to instruct. However, it is still important to have instructors with intimate knowledge of the present affairs in their field, and active research is certainly a way to accomplish this. One move that MIT should seriously consider is a re-evaluation of the teaching requirement, to ensure a higher quality of education.

Then again, maybe I'm asking too much if I want to feel some enjoyment for the classes I take and the disciplines I want to pursue. After all, no one ever said that learning had to be fun. I'd just like to think that "no pain, no gain" didn't have to be an MIT rule of thumb.

Andrew C. Thomas is a sophomore in the Department of Biology.

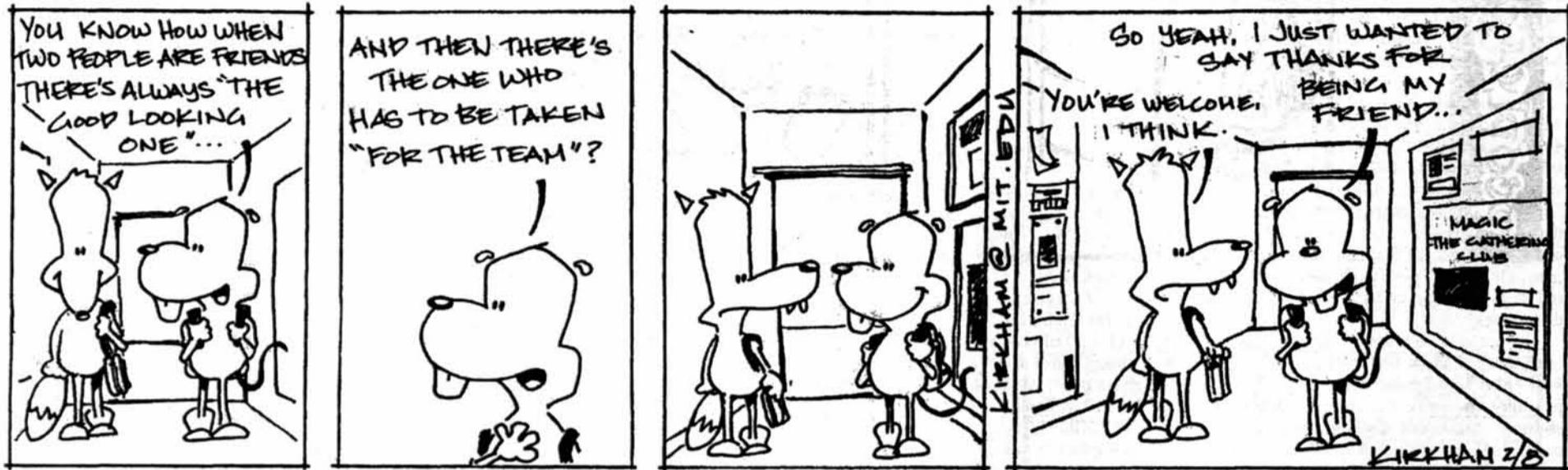
# COMICS

# FUN PAGES

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February 8,  
2002

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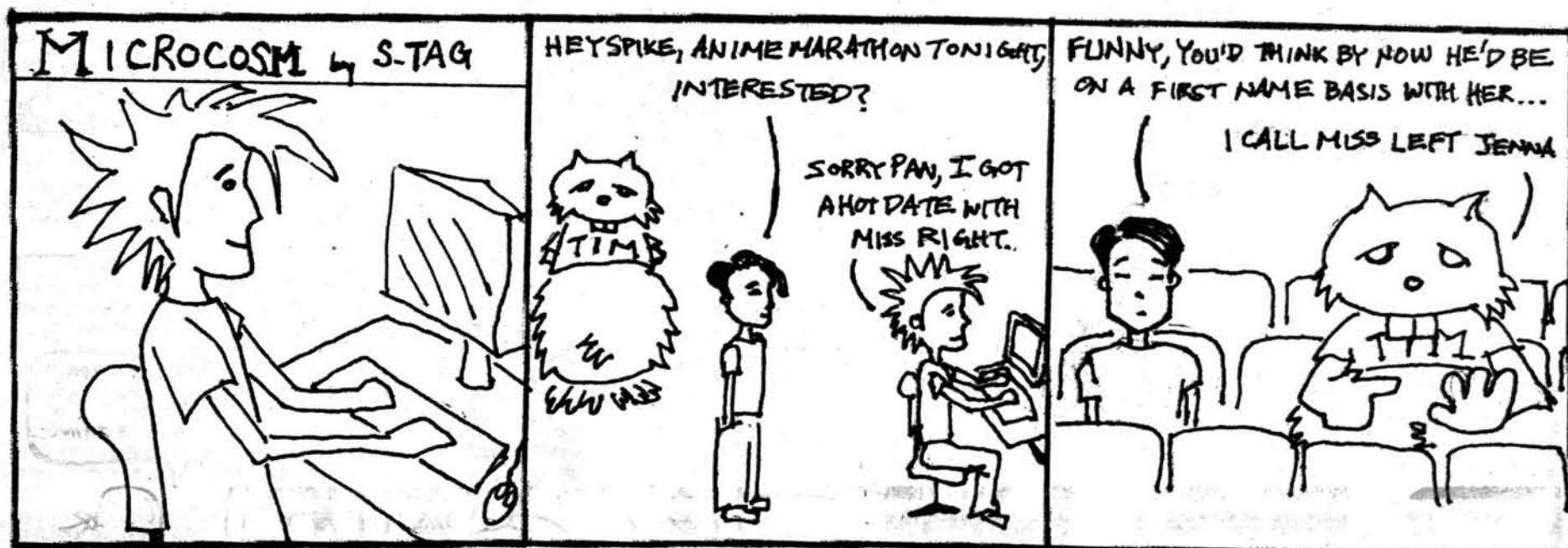
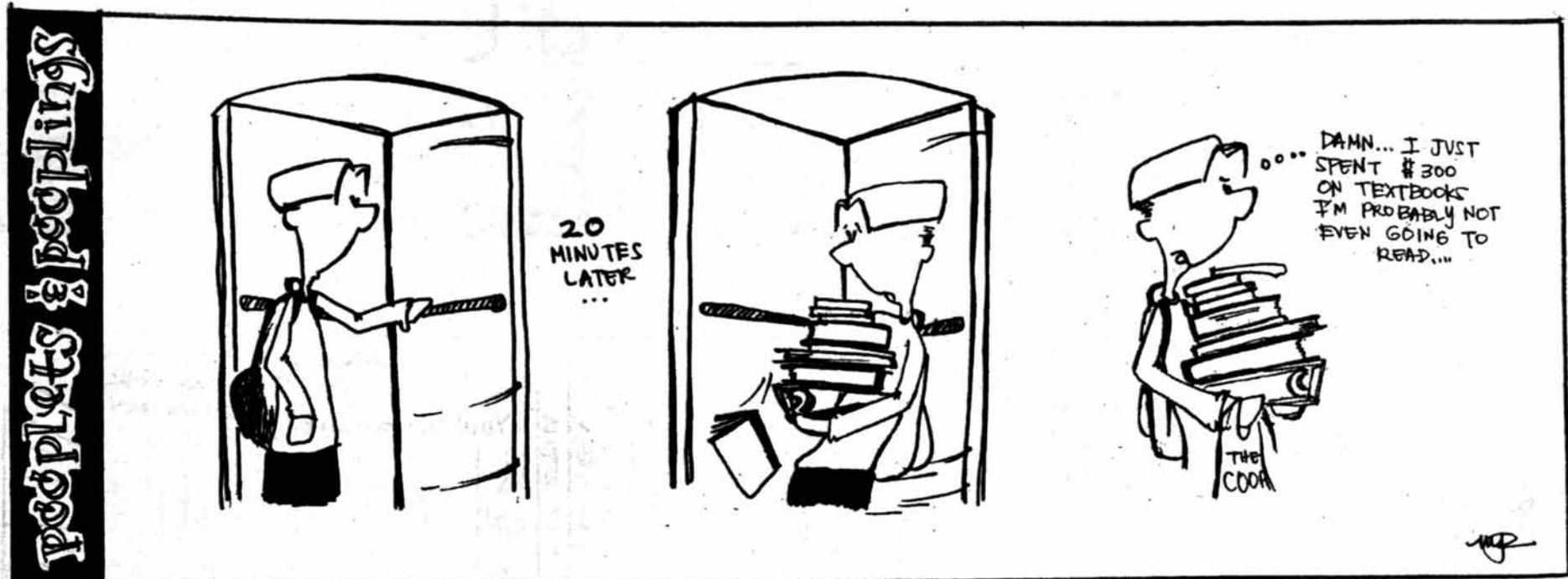


## INTEGRAL FORCE



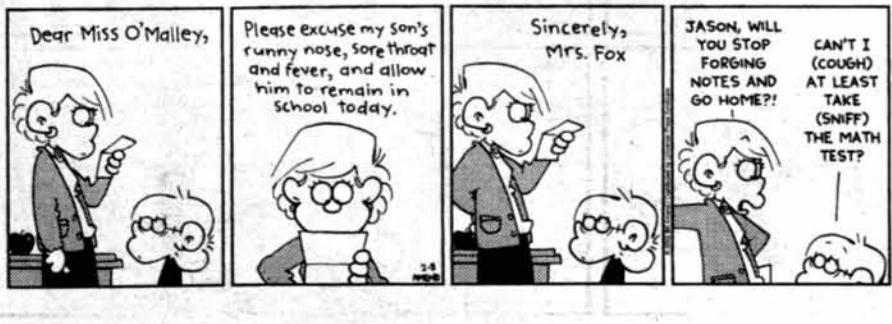
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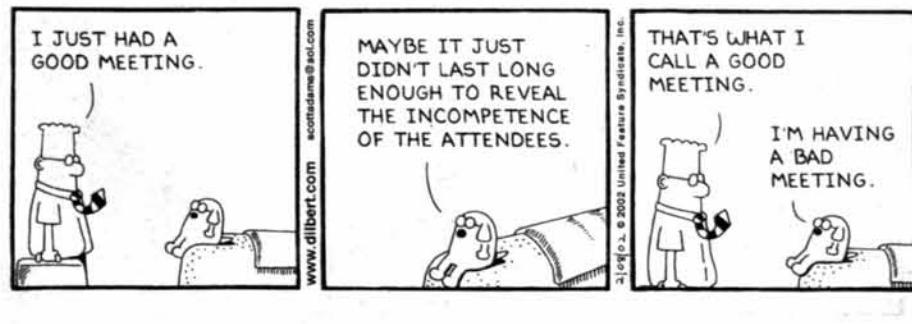
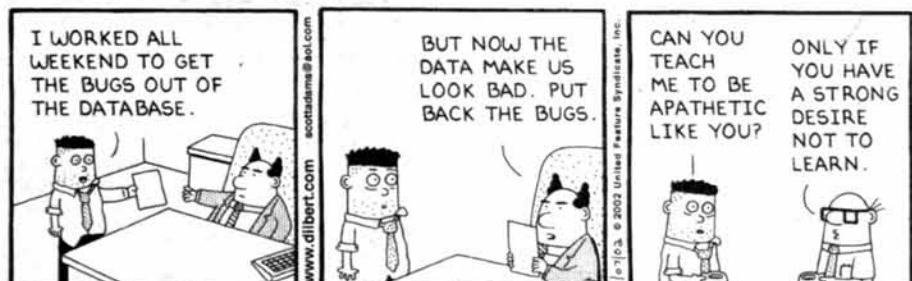
## FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



## Dilbert®

by Scott Adams





## Clubs

**Axis**  
13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437  
Sundays: See Avalon below.  
Mondays: *Static*. Gay, casual dress. \$5, 18+.  
Thursdays: *Chrome/Skybar*. Progressive house, soul, disco; dress code. \$10, 19+; \$8, 21+.  
Fridays: *Avalandx*, with Avalon.  
Saturdays: *X-night* (rock, alternative, techno, hip-hop) downstairs and *Move* (techno) upstairs.

## Avalon

15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424  
Sundays: *Gay Night* (with Axis on long weekends). Featuring hardcore house and techno. \$10, 21+.  
Thursdays: *International Night*. Eurohouse. \$10, 19+.  
Fridays: *Avalandx*, with Axis. House. \$15, 19+.  
Saturdays: *Downtown*. Modern house, club classics, and Top 40 hits. \$15, 21+.

## Karma Club

9 Lansdowne St., 617-421-9595  
Sundays: "Current dance favorites" by guest DJs. Cover varies.  
Tuesdays: *Phatt Tuesdays*. With Bill's Bar, modern dance music. \$10.  
Wednesdays: *STP*. Gay-friendly, house. \$15, 21+.  
Thursdays: *Groove Factor*. House.  
Fridays: *Spin cycle*. Prog. house. 19+.  
Saturdays: *Elements of Life*. International House. \$15.

**ManRay**  
21 Brookline St., Cambridge, 617-864-0400  
Wednesdays: *Curses*. Goth. Appropriate dress required. \$5, 19+; \$3, 21+.  
Thursdays: *Campus*. Popular tunes + House. Gay, casual dress. \$10, 19+; \$8, 21+.  
Fridays: *Fantasy Factory* (First and third Friday of the month. Features kinky fetishes and industrial music.) *Hell Night* (every second Friday, 19+. Includes Goth music.) *Ooze* (the last Friday of the month.) \$10, 21+.  
Reduced prices for those wearing fetish gear.  
Saturdays: *Liquid*. Disco/house and New Wave. \$15, 19+; \$10, 21+.

## Popular Music

**Ax**  
13 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2437  
Next: 423-NEXT  
Feb. 15: Sick of it All, Suicide Machines  
Feb. 23: The Dictators  
Feb. 26: Unwritten Law

**Avalon**  
15 Lansdowne St., 617-262-2424  
Feb. 8: Rufus Wainwright  
Feb. 25: Gorillaz  
Feb. 26: Rollins Band  
Feb. 28: John Mayer  
Mar. 1: Nelly Furtado  
Mar. 3: Nas  
Mar. 8: Jaguares  
Mar. 9: Great Big Sea  
Mar. 14: Bad Religion  
Mar. 16, 17: Dropkick Murphys  
Mar. 18: Ryan Adams  
Mar. 26: Herbie Hancock

## Berklee Performance Center

Berklee College of Music  
1140 Boylston St.  
Free student recitals and faculty concerts, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. some weekdays. For info on these concerts, call the Performance Information Line at 266-2261.

Feb. 15: Regina Carter and Stefon Harris  
Feb. 17: Mary Black  
Feb. 19: Joan Baez  
Mar. 3: Wayne Shorter Quartet  
Mar. 9: Dave Brubeck Quartet  
Mar. 10: The Singing Priests  
Mar. 26: Mercedes Sosa

## On The Town

A weekly guide to the arts in Boston  
February 8 - 15

Compiled by Devdoot Majumdar

Send submissions to ott@the-tech.mit.edu or by interdepartmental mail to "On The Town," The Tech, W20-483.

## Club Passim

47 Palmer St., Cambridge, 617-492-7679  
Tuesdays: Open Mic at 8 p.m. (sign up at 7:30). \$5. See <<http://www.clubpassim.com>> for complete schedule  
Feb. 9: Edie Carey  
Feb. 11: Matt Smith Birthday Benefit  
Feb. 14, 15: Kris Delmhorst  
Feb. 16: Anne Heaton  
Feb. 20: Lowen & Navaro  
Feb. 22: Fishkin & Groves

## FleetCenter

Ticketmaster: 931-2787.

Dec. 3: Mix 98.5 Holiday Hoedown, with Coldplay, the Cranberries, Alanis Morissette, and Bare-naked Ladies.

Mar. 2, 3: Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young

April 3: Elton John & Billy Joel

April 7, 8: Dave Matthews Band

## The Middle East

Central Square, 354-8238

Ticketmaster: 931-2787.

Feb. 8: Slackers

Feb. 9: al.one

Feb. 10: All The Queen's Men

Feb. 12: Breeders

Feb. 13: Dresden dolls

Feb. 14: Project Object

Feb. 15: Jiggle

Feb. 16: Michigan Black

Feb. 17: Mr. Lif

Feb. 18: Fu Manchu

Feb. 24: Flickerstick

Mar. 16: Dismemberment Plan, Death Cab for Cutie

## Orpheum Theatre

1 Hamilton Pl., Boston, 617-679-0810  
Ticketmaster: 931-2787

Feb. 14: Judas Priest

Feb. 21: Nanci Griffith & Blue Moon Orchestra

Feb. 22: Janeane Garofalo

Mar. 12: Bush

Mar. 13: Enrique Iglesias

## Paradise Rock Club

967 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, Ma. 02215, 617-562-8804

Feb. 8: Deep Banana Blackout

Feb. 15: The Sheila Divine

Feb. 19: Michelle Branch

Feb. 20: Strangefolk

Feb. 22: John Scofield Band

Feb. 28: Edwin McCain

Mar. 1: Indigo Girls

## Tsongsas Arena

300 Arcand Dr., Lowell, MA 01852  
(978) 848-6900

Feb. 8: Green Day

Feb. 11: Linkin Park

## Jazz Music

## Regattabar

Concertix: 876-7777  
1 Bennett St., Cambridge 02138, 617-662-5000, <<http://www.regattabar.com>> Call for schedule.

Feb. 8, 9: Scott Hamilton Quartet

Feb. 14-17: Michael Brecker Quartet



Passionate vocalist Edie Carey stops off in Boston with the debut of her latest album, *Call Me Home* at Club Passim Saturday night.

Local singer-songwriter Flynn, above, shows Boston what it's all about tonight at Bill's Bar.

## Exhibits

## Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

280 The Fenway, Boston, (566-1401), Tues.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$10 (\$11 on weekends), \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students with ID (\$3 on Wed.), free for children under 18. The museum, built in the style of a 15th-century Venetian palace, houses more than 2,500 art objects, with emphasis on Italian Renaissance and 17th-century Dutch works. Among the highlights are works by Rembrandt, Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, and Whistler. Guided tours given Fridays at 2:30 p.m.

## Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave., Boston, (267-9300), Mon.-Tues., 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m.; Wed., 10 a.m.-9:45 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. West Wing open Thurs.-Fri. until 9:45 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$10, \$8 for students and seniors, children under 17 free; \$2 after 5 p.m. Thurs.-Fri., free Wed. after 4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.: introductory walks through all collections begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; "Asian, Egyptian, and Classical Walks" begin at 11:30 a.m.; "American Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 12:30 p.m.; "European Painting and Decorative Arts Walks" begin at 2:30 p.m.; Introductory tours are also offered Sat. at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Permanent Gallery Installations: "Late Gothic Gallery," featuring a restored 15th-century stained glass window from Hampton Court, 14th- and 15th-century stone, alabaster, and polychrome wood sculptures from France and the Netherlands; "Mummy Mask Gallery," a newly renovated Egyptian gallery, features primitive masks dating from as far back as 2500 B.C.; "European Dec-

orative Arts from 1950 to the Present"; "John Singer Sargent: Studies for MFA and Boston Public Library Murals." Gallery lectures are free with museum admission.

## Museum of Science

Science Park, Boston, (723-2500), Daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free with MIT ID, otherwise \$9, \$7 for children 3-14 and seniors. The museum features the theater of electricity (with indoor thunder-and-lightning shows daily) and more than 600 hands-on exhibits. Ongoing: "Discovery Center"; "Investigate! A See-For-Yourself Exhibit"; "Science in the Park: Playing with Forces and Motion"; "Seeing Is Deceiving." Ongoing: "Friday Night Stargazing," Fri., 8:30 p.m.; "Welcome to the Universe," daily; "Quest for Contact: Are We Alone?" daily. Admission to Omni, laser, and planetarium shows is \$7.50, \$5.50 for children and seniors. Current Laser Light shows: *Laser Beanie Boys*, *Laser Ragefest 3*, *Laser Pink Floyd: Dark Side*, *Laser Aerosmith*.

## The Films of Frederick Wiseman

The Museum of Fine Arts offers a complete retrospective of Wiseman's 31 documentaries, every Saturday, through April 14, 2002. At the Remis Auditorium Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 02115 unless otherwise noted. For tickets and more information, call 369-3770. Tickets are \$8, \$7 MFA members, seniors, students.

Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m.: *Ballet* (1995, 170 min.). *Ballet* is a profile of the work of the American Ballet Theatre, an important classical ballet company. The film presents the Company in rehearsal in their New York studio and on tour in Athens and Copenhagen.

hagen. Choreographers, ballet masters and mistresses are shown at work with principle dancers, soloists, and the corps de ballet. Other sequences involve the administration and fund raising aspects of the Company.

Jan. 9 at 8 p.m.: *Titicut Follies* (1967, 84 min.). The film is a stark and graphic portrayal of the conditions that existed at the State Prison for the Criminally Insane at Bridgewater, Massachusetts. *Titicut Follies* documents the various ways the inmates are treated by the guards, social workers and psychiatrists.

## Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years

Through Feb. 28. At the John F. Kennedy Library, Columbia Point, Dorchester, MA. Using the Kennedys' path to the White House as a framing device, Vogue editor Hamish Bowles presents outfit along with related material. Photos of events and appearances are blown up, and correspondence with designers proves that Kennedy's seemingly effortless grace was part of an overall exacting attention to detail. Open most weekdays and weekends 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$15-\$8. May be crowded.

## Mahogany

Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.: Other Music Harvard Square (90 Winthrop St., Cambridge MA) proudly welcomes Mahogany for an in-store performance. Free admission, but limited capacity. For more information, call 617-491-4419 or visit <[www.simdisc.com/index2.html](http://www.simdisc.com/index2.html)>.

## 17th Annual Drawing Show

Opening Reception Dec. 15, 7-9 p.m. at the Mills Gallery (539 Tremont Street in the South End. MBTA Orange Line to Back Bay Station, near the corner of Clarendon and Tremont Streets. Also, the MBTA Bus #43 stops in front of the Boston Center for the Arts on Tremont Street.) This event is sponsored by the Boston Center for the Arts, and Bill Arning is the guest juror and curator of this year's Drawing Show. Featuring the work of 100 Boston artists. The exhibition runs through February 10, 2002. Arning will also be giving a Curator's Talk on Thursday, January 10, 2002, from 6:30 PM at the Mills Gallery. For more information, call the BCA Events Line at (617) 426-7700.

## New Films from Europe

Dec. 7-15: For the second consecutive year, the Harvard Film Archive presents a selection of new films from Europe.

Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.: *The Slow Business of Going* (Dir. by Athina Rachel Tsangari, US/Greece 2000, 35mm, b/w and color, 101 min.) Athina Tsangari, a native of Athens, is an innovative filmmaker, who works with superimposed images, numbers and words, video, looped soundtracks, and animation to create a new language of cinema. Her film revolves around the young and attractive Petra (Martinez), whom we follow as she travels the world. A film about personal identity, the dissolution of borders, and the place of the individual in the modern world, Tsangari's first feature is an ambitious salute to genres as varied as the spy-thriller and slapstick comedy.

All festival films will be screened at Harvard Film Archive, located at the lower level of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, 24 Quincy St. Cambridge. Tickets \$7, \$5 students, seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the Harvard Box Office, located at: Holyoke Center Arcade, 1350 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. For ticketing info, call 617-495-2222 or TTY: 617-495-1642. Visit <[www.harvardfilmarchive.org](http://www.harvardfilmarchive.org)>. For a complete schedule or call 617-495-4700.



★★★ 1/2 stars!"  
—Jay Carr, BOSTON GLOBE  
'Amelie' is a fey charmer. You've heard of 'The French Connection'. 'Amelie' is, par excellence, the French confection."

Shows Daily at 12:05, 1:05, 1:40, 2:50, 3:30, 4:10, 6:10, 6:55, 9:00, 9:55  
Early show Mon-Sat at 10:30am

## THE ARTS

## GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER - BEST ACTRESS

Set in a tranquil town on the coast of Maine,

*In The Bedroom* tells the story of a couple

whose only child is involved in a love affair with

a single mother. When the relationship comes

to a sudden and tragic end, each person must

face the intensely difficult decision

of how to respond.

Shows Daily at 12:10, 1:20, 3:00, 4:10, 6:10, 6:55, 9:00, 9:55

Early show Mon-Sat at 10:30am

## GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER - BEST DIRECTOR

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DE Shaw & Co

# MIT to Admit Fewer Freshmen To Ensure Smaller Class Sizes

By Brian Loux

NEWS EDITOR

MIT is taking extra precautions in its undergraduate admissions policies this year to ensure that the incoming Class of 2006 does not exceed 1000 students. Fewer bids will be sent out to prospective freshmen starting this year in hopes of maintaining this number.

"We will do everything possible not to overshoot this year," said Dean for Undergraduate Education Robert P. Redwine.

The Executive Committee of the MIT Corporation decided to reduce the number of incoming freshmen to 1000 students beginning with the class of 2004. While this number was overshoot slightly for 2004, the class of 2005 had thirty more students than planned. Although this represents a small percentage of the class, this overflow of freshmen exacerbated the already fragile crowding situation on campus.

However, while the class will consist of 1000 students, 20 of the slots have been set aside for transfer students. "In essence, the freshman target goes down by 20 from original thinking," said Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict.

#### Smaller classes to be maintained

Administrators are taking steps to make certain that next year's class will not be overcrowded, and to avoid future problems, the administration will maintain freshman class sizes of 1000 for the indefinite future.

"The goal was not to diminish the freshman class until Simmons was built," Benedict said. "Even with Simmons built, we don't have enough spaces in our undergraduate halls to accommodate all the undergrads that want on-campus housing."

In recent years, the long-term size of the freshman class has remained in question. Many assumed that student numbers would bounce back after the move of freshman onto campus had settled.

However, it now appears that future freshman classes will remain around 1000 students instead of the 1050 from five years ago.

"Long term, we believe that a class size of about 1000 will fit well with our available housing and with our capacity for providing a quality education for those students," Redwine said.

How the admissions changes will affect student life at MIT remains to be seen. "Overall, I think it won't have a day to day student impact," said Undergraduate Administration President Jaime E. Devereaux '02. "But we don't know what impact it will have on the FSILG community."

#### MIT gets higher matriculant yield

If factors continue on their present trends, the class of 2006 will most likely trump 2005 as the most selective class in MIT history.

"We overshot the target last year because of fewer than expected 'melts' over the summer," Redwine said. He defined "melts" as those students who reply to the acceptance letter but decide not to come in the fall.

#### Solution to Crossword

from page 8

APT	DRAMA	ECLAT
ROI	EAVES	CROWE
ERA	STILT	LATEX
ACRES	STRAIN	
SHARES	APPEARS	
	ARTICLES	MAT
BLUSTERY	DESIRE	
LANE	ACT	AGEE
INTROS	LASTWORD	
TAI	ROSEMARY	
ZILLION	DEEPEN	
	IONIZE	BRAVO
CRUEL	CAROL	PAT
PURGE	KNIFE	ADE
AGNES	SECTS	WED

This could be quite a challenge to the admissions staff, as applications to MIT and the subsequent acceptance rates have risen in recent years.

"MIT seems to be becoming more popular," Benedict said. "Students in the past who wouldn't show up in September are now showing up."

Regular action applicants will be notified of their admission decision on the first of April.

Dean for Admissions Marilee Jones could not be reached for comment.

#### Tuition may rise more than usual

Students might see a sharper

jump in tuition than usual in the coming year. When MIT decided to decrease the number of acceptances in 2000, tuition rose by \$1,050. The usual yearly increase for the past ten years has been around \$900.

However, many other factors will contribute to the cost of tuition, and the recession may eclipse the admissions cut as the guiding factor this year.

"From the perspective of MIT's finances, improving the comfort of students vastly exceeds the relatively insignificant amount of tuition money lost with a marginally smaller class size," Devereaux said.



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# Course VI TA Raise Has Little Impact on New Assistantships

**Grad Students, from Page 1**

G, who recently applied to the PhD program in Course VI, felt that the economy did not affect her decision to apply.

"I feel like I could get a job if I really wanted to ... but I want to go into teaching," Kaminski said. "I guess I'm lucky that it is my decision."

## Course VI numbers up 20 percent

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (Course VI) has received "close to 2800" applications for graduate degree programs, according to Course VI administrator Celestine M. Carney. This is an increase of

over 500 from 2001, when 2230 applications were received.

Anne M. Hunter, another Course VI administrator, said that about 360 applications for the MEng program have been received. "My impression is that it stayed consistent [from previous years]," Hunter said.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering (Course II) has received over 120 more applications for graduate programs this year, according to Course II administrator Leslie Regan. About 740 applications have been processed this year compared to 620 last year.

## Electronic applications accepted

Another possible explanation for

the increase in applicants this year may be the fact that it was easier to turn in application materials — this was the first year that applicants were allowed to apply for most of MIT's graduate programs online.

"Over 60 percent of the applications, excluding Sloan, came in electronically," Johnson said. "It may have increased applications somewhat."

Carney agreed, also noting that students were able to pay application fees over the Web with credit card for the first time.

## Stipend raise has little effect

The increased stipend awarded to Course VI teaching assistants has had almost no effect on the number of applications for teaching assistantships.

According to Course VI Executive Officer and Professor Frederick C. Hennie '55, 207 students applied to be TAs for the spring. In the fall of 2001, 205 students applied.

"I don't think it had a major effect," Hennie said. "I don't think too many students knew about the increases, but those who did seemed excited."

Only doctoral candidates who have previously served as teaching assistants are eligible for the \$185 bonus, beginning this term. There are "at least 20" teaching assistants this term who are receiving the pay raise, Hennie said. Normally, TAs are paid \$1850 per month; those eligible for the increase are paid \$2035 per month, beginning this term.

Everest W. Huang G, a TA for Stochastic Processes, Detection, and Estimation (6.432), benefited from the increase. "It was a nice addition, but I probably would have [been a TA] anyway," Huang said.



Sue Y. Young '05 introduces a blindfolded Erik C. Makhni '05 (C) to be won as a date in the Panhellenic Association's rendition of MTV's "Singled Out" Monday night in Lobdell.



JASON LAPENTA—THE TECH  
Las Absurdas Maquinas (The Absurd Machines) is a robotic performance project based in part on Goya's influential etchings, "The Disparates." This art piece created by Aaron Edsinger G was displayed in the Student Center lobby Monday through Wednesday.

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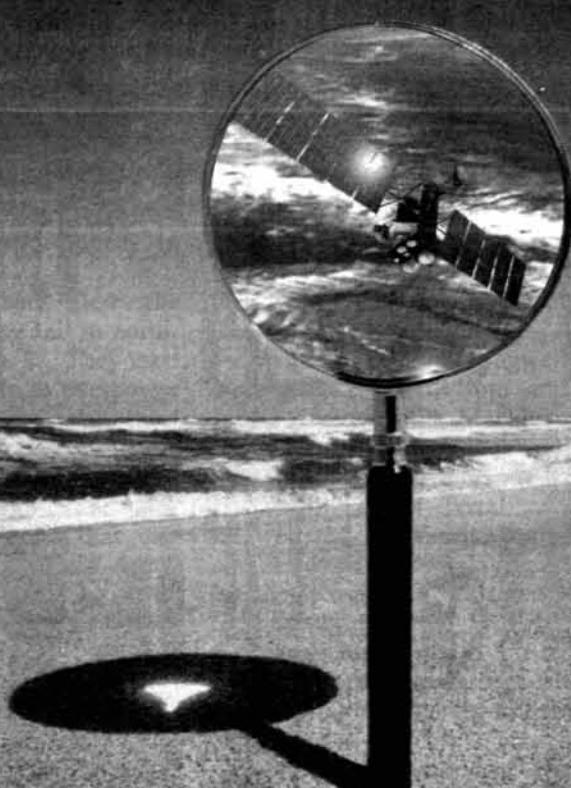
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# Alcohol Affects the Whole Community, Trujillo Says

**Trujillo**, from Page 1

of experience. I always say whenever I talk about alcohol that it's important to make the distinction between drinking and excessive drinking, or drinking to intoxication.

**The Tech:** Does anything need to change about the attitude toward alcohol on campus?

**Trujillo:** The challenge is trying to get everyone on the same page as far as how we think about alcohol on campus. The fact that most students don't, themselves, experience a problem with alcohol doesn't mean that it's not important.

The Harvard School of Public Health study, which came out last year, cited that three out of four college students are negatively affected by others' drinking. It's the second-hand effects of alcohol or drug-use that oftentimes we are more likely to experience. Those effects range from interrupted sleep to fights or arguments to poor academic performance to sexual assault.

**The Tech:** Do you think the way in which the school responded to the Scott Krueger incident was appropriate? How would you have responded?

**Trujillo:** The repercussions from the Scott Krueger situation continue. Certainly it has an impact upon student life here at MIT, if not nationally.

For example my position, in all honesty, would not exist without the incident involving Scott Krueger. Every college and university is responsible for having some alcohol and other drug coordinator in order to receive federal funds, but there are only two institutions that I know of that have a dean-level position designed to specifically address alcohol as well as community issues. That's MIT and Brown University.

I think that it is much to the university's credit and the president's credit that they ... really focus on student communities. I think that's an important acknowledgment ... [that] you can't take alcohol out of context of the person's life. If we were just throwing all this support and resources at alcohol, it would really be doing a disservice to the student experience. You have to look at the communities, the living environments, and the quality of life and improve upon that.

It's hard to look back and try to judge or estimate what would have happened. When it comes to higher education, my approach is to take what research has found to be effective and to work with students and other members of the community to evaluate if those strategies and initiatives would work.

So I find whether I was here during the Scott Krueger situation, or even now, I would take the same

sort of systematic approach. That is, let's evaluate what the climate is, what the culture is, what the needs are. Then let's develop some strategies, programs, resources, and support to address those needs.

**The Tech:** Do think having freshmen living on campus, starting next year, will reduce underage drinking?

**Trujillo:** I believe that there are advantages and certain potential limitations to having freshmen living on campus. I think advantages related to alcohol are very immediate and I can't deny those. There is research at other institutions that seems to indicate that one way to address high risk drinking, particularly excessive drinking, is by implementing a housing structure where first year students live on campus. Actually, research is beginning to indicate that having sophomores living in housing [is also effective].

It's important to be sensitive, though, because we're talking about a change in climate and culture here. Even though these things do seem to work at other institutions, I think it's important that the people who have to live with these decisions, students, are included and offered an opportunity to evaluate whether this is a good thing.

Quite honestly, I don't think anyone truly knows if this (fresh-

men on campus) is a good thing and probably won't know until the end of next year or even two years after this is implemented. I think this is a period of evaluation. It could have a tremendously positive impact on campus life, but I think it's also important to consider how this is going to affect various contingencies on campus. The repercussions could turn out to be fairly detrimental.

**The Tech:** What do you think of the anonymous medical transport issue that came up earlier this year?

**Trujillo:** Addressing this issue is a primary focus. One of the things we're trying to address is really redirecting the focus on the issue. I think people miss the point with medical transport. First and foremost is the health and safety of those who are being transported. By focusing on citations we miss that first point.

Most students everywhere don't drink that heavily to require [medical transportation]. That doesn't mean it's not important. Because it's fairly uncommon, the priority is to try to develop an effective response that really helps the individual evaluate the situation. Receiving medical intervention for alcohol overdose is extremely traumatic not only for the student receiving treatment, but also for the friends who accompany the stu-

dent. It's extremely scary for parents and people who associate with the student.

The university follow-up is to have a medical practitioner follow up with the student, just to make sure they're okay and talk about the experience. Oftentimes excessive alcohol use ... is symptomatic of other issues the student is experiencing. It's not about the drinking; it's about what led to the drinking. A punitive measure for someone who experiences alcohol poisoning, oftentimes, is not effective in addressing the needs of the person.

That doesn't mean that the person is let off the hook because it is a response. I think and hope that's where MIT is headed. I think the medical transport issue is something that can be resolved, but it's going to have to take a great deal of input from a lot of different sources to make sure everyone's on the same page.

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#### Vassar St. Utilities

The crosswalk at Vassar St. from Building 38 to 44 is blocked due to drain work. A new walk has been constructed according to ADA requirements, crossing from Building 36 to 45. Pedestrians should use this new walk and not cross through the construction zone.

#### Stata Center

Occupants of Building 36 may experience some noise and odor as work continues. Mitigation for construction equipment exhaust fumes in Building 36 is being implemented.

#### Memorial Drive Traffic Signals

Work continues on Memorial Drive around the Endicott and Wadsworth Street intersections. The traffic signals are expected to be operational by February 8.

#### 70 Pacific Street

Glazing, Interior framing, and interior drywalling continue.

#### NStar Transmission Line project

NStar is installing a 115 kv transmission line along Memorial Drive from Pleasant Street (near Howard Johnson's) to the Longfellow Bridge. This work is now underway and will continue through the winter. Lane restrictions may cause traffic delays.

#### Simmons Hall

Installation of waterproofing, insulation, and windows is in progress. Excavation of the west end of Vassar St. for utility installation continues. This may affect traffic flow.

#### Zesiger Sports & Fitness Center

Roof work, dry wall framing, rough plumbing, and fireproofing continue, with special precautions regarding generation of noise. Accesses to W34 and Kresge Auditorium may be congested as construction continues.

*For information on MIT's building program, see <http://web.mit.edu/evolving>. This information provided by the MIT Department of Facilities.*

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# Legal Experts Question Some Claims in Shin Lawsuit

**Shin**, from Page 1

master answer" for the malfeasance of its employees, Klein also sought to hold Brown responsible. Although the Rhode Island Supreme Court found this argument to be valid, the jury in this case did not find any fault on the part of either Brown University or the psychologist.

Unlike the Klein case, the Shins are not suing MIT for medical malpractice. They are, however, claiming malpractice against five MIT doctors individually. This is because of a 1971 Massachusetts law which limits "tort claims" against educational and charitable institutions to \$20,000, DeLuca said. The term "tort" refers to a civil injury, such as medical malpractice, for which a person harmed can seek damages in court.

Instead of suing MIT directly for the alleged malpractice of its employees, the Shins are asserting four non-tort causes of action against MIT. Three of these causes of action allege that MIT violated expressed or implied contracts with the Shins to provide "appropriate medical diagnoses and treatment," to "act in loco parentis," and "to provide necessary and reasonable educational, medical, security, and emergency services" to their daughter.

The fourth count alleges that MIT, as "an institution engaged in trade or commerce," was guilty of "an unfair and deceptive business practice" in failing to "provide adequate and coordinated mental health care" as well as "to maintain the fire suppression system in Random Hall ... [and] by allowing the use of candles and other incendiary devices in Random Hall."

"I understand that the complaint is rather broad, and it has to be," DeLuca said. "It's our obligation to bring all claims that are arguable."

#### Experts questions Shins' claims

DeLuca said the \$20,000 limit on tort claims is "what necessitates the bringing of those claims in [breach of contract] form."

DeLuca argued that MIT promised to provide "the very best educational opportunity" including

medical services, and that since "she didn't get that ... she lost the benefit of the bargain."

However, several legal experts were skeptical of this attempt to describe MIT's alleged wrongdoing as a breach of contract and consumer fraud.

A source close to MIT said it is not uncommon for Massachusetts plaintiffs to try to turn negligence claims into contract claims in order to circumvent the \$20,000 limit.

Jerry Meek, a Dallas, Texas attorney whose firm specializes in representing plaintiffs in medical malpractices involving suicides, described the lawsuit as a "very difficult case" for the Shins to win.

Meek said, "Generally speaking, whenever anyone has tried to use a claim like this [as a contract claim] the court has called it what it was."

#### Suit partially based on fraud law

The Shins' "unfair and deceptive business practice" claims are asserted under the Massachusetts consumer fraud statute known as Section 93A.

The precedent set by the 1993 Massachusetts case, *Hypolite v. City of Boston*, appears to make it difficult for the Shins to maintain their claims. In that case, a plaintiff attempted to assert a medical malpractice claim under the same law against the Boston City Hospital.

The court found that the hospital was not interacting with its patients in a "business context," and that the City of Boston was thus not engaged in "trade or commerce."

An attorney unrelated to the case who specializes in healthcare liability said that even if the Shins are able to convince a judge that their claims against MIT are properly contract-related and thus not restrained by the \$20,000 limit, they will not be able to get their claimed \$27.7 million in actual damages from MIT.

Remedies in breach-of-contract cases are generally limited to the actual value of the contract, which in this case would be Shin's tuition, the attorney said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In each of the claims made against MIT, MIT's doctors, Elizabeth Shin's former housemaster,

MIT administrators and campus police officers, it will be the jury's responsibility to hear the facts of the case and then decide the amount of monetary damages to award, said a source close to MIT.

#### Malpractice claims seem valid

Experts generally agreed that the Shins' malpractice claims against MIT's doctors sound considerably stronger than their claims against MIT.

Meek criticized MIT Staff Psychiatrist Anthony Van Neil's alleged behavior. The complaint alleges that Van Neil "decided that he had no need to meet or evaluate Ms. Shin in person," after speaking to Shin over the telephone two days before her suicide.

According to Meek, a psychiatrist "would have to meet with the person," because "it's incredibly difficult to do an assessment of the patient over the telephone." Meek said a claim of malpractice, however, would depend on Van Neil's diagnosis of Shin, something not found in the complaint.

Hearing that Shin had been recommended to a program of "Dialectic Behavior Therapy," Meek said that treatment is "really only used for [a diagnosis of] borderline personality disorder."

Patients with this disorder, Meek said, "very often engage in low-risk suicide attempts in an effort to gain attention."

#### Shin asked MIT not to tell parents

The Shins assert that MIT never informed them of Elizabeth's declining mental health because of an over-reliance on confidentiality.

According to DeLuca, the Shins were never advised that they could ask Elizabeth to sign a confidentiality waiver that would have allowed them to become more involved in their daughter's medical treatment.

As to whether this was legal-

ly relevant, Meek said, "I don't think there's any duty at all for the mental health providers to inform the parents that the plaintiff can sign a release."

MIT has countered that Elizabeth specifically demanded that doctors not involve her parents.

"The difficulty in this case is that [Elizabeth] clearly didn't want her parents involved — that was one of her specific concerns," Robert M. Randolph, the senior associate dean for students, told The Boston Globe six weeks after the suicide.

"The question we have been reviewing is whether we should specifically counter the wishes of individuals," Randolph added.

Randolph recently confirmed that Elizabeth's reluctance to involve her parents in her treatment was "clearly known to a lot of people."

"I think we're confident that the situation as it was was handled well," Randolph said. "The tragedy was that the outcome was unacceptable."

#### Medical records quoted in *Globe*

It is unclear how Shin's medical records from McLean Hospital and MIT Mental Health Services were obtained by The Boston Globe.

In a Jan. 25, 2001 story by Patrick Healy, published three days before the Shins' lawsuit was filed, the *Globe* cited McLean "hospital records" which indicated that Shin had spent a week at the psychiatric and mental health hospital after having "failed physics the previous fall."

This article also appears to be the first published disclosure that Shin had had mental health issues prior to attending MIT, saying she had "told doctors" that "she had cut her wrists superficially after earning an incomplete grade" in high school.

The story attributes to "one MIT

mental health record" that Shin threatened to commit suicide in the spring of 1999 "following a breakup with a boyfriend." The article also directly quotes "an MIT Mental Health Services memo on March 21, 2000."

DeLuca said that he is in possession of these records, but he insisted that he did not reveal their contents to the *Globe*. He says he did send them to MIT's attorney in the case, Jeffrey Swope of the law firm Palmer & Dodge "in the interests of full disclosure."

Swope said, "We are not making general substantive comments since the matter is in litigation."

Healy, the author of the *Globe* article, said that "McLean asked as well" how he obtained the records.

DeLuca said that Shin's reported mental health issues in high school were not relevant to the case. "It's really beside the point. I'm sure that a lot of students come to MIT with bumps and bruises, and it's the responsibility of the service to respond to the whole person, regardless," DeLuca said.

DeLuca said the Shins believed a civil case was an appropriate forum for their complaints, since an attempt to involve the District Attorney or a malpractice complaint before the state medical board "would be overreaching at this point."

MIT has three weeks from the complaint's filing date on Jan. 28 to file a paragraph-by-paragraph answer, which will likely consist only of "admit" or "deny" for most paragraphs, according to sources close to the Institute.

If the parties do not reach a settlement, the case may not go to trial until early 2005 or later, according to DeLuca, citing standing rules of the Massachusetts Trial Courts which put medical malpractice lawsuits on a three-year schedule.

Qian Wang contributed to the reporting of this story.

## The Tech News Hotline

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Tuesday Feb. 12 "The Possibility of Love" from noon to 1:30 in W20-491. A workshop about healthy relationships. Free food and drinks!

Thursday Feb. 14 National Condom Day booth on the first floor of the student center. Win a gift certificate to Legal Seafoods!

To talk with a health educator about sexual health, to check out our lending library, or to schedule activities about sexual responsibility for your residence hall or PSILG, call Health Education at 3-1316 or stop by at E23-205.



Health Education  
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Data source: 1998 National College Health Assessment, American College Health Association, Summary of MIT Results

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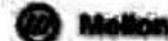
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# MIT Expands Plans For Service Program

**Work-Study**, from Page 1

in the area. "We have spent a lot of time developing the America Reads program," Smith said. "We normally have 40-50 Work-Study students doing [the program]." This year there are approximately 70 FWS students participating in community service.

"The reason we only have one program like [America Reads] is that it's pretty intensive to run," Susnowitz said.

"We know we need to develop more programs. We're partnering with the Public Service Center to develop some programs for the summer. We're working on this very quickly," Smith said. New programs that would qualify as FWS community service are currently being created.

However, programs developed by the PSC and SFS are not the only options for FWS students interested in community service. Students with community service ideas can bring them to the PSC or SFS and get help in developing their proposals. "We're interested in what students think," Smith said.

#### UROPs help students volunteer

In addition to tutoring programs, the PSC and SFS are working jointly to develop service learning classes, service Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programs (UROP), and summer fellowships to increase service opportunities for FWS participants.

Students participating in service learning classes receive credit for volunteering in the community.

"We like the idea that people can meet several needs at once," Susnowitz said. Through service learning, students can receive FWS money, receive class credit, and participate in community service.

Service UROPs are a relatively new form of UROP. Susnowitz said that one of the functions of a service UROP would be to allow a student to continue or finish a project that was started during service learning. Often, students are not given an opportunity

to complete service learning projects because they are limited to a semester time frame.

Dan Relihan '04 completed the first ever service UROP last semester. He created an online physics resource specifically for physics students at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. The UROP allowed Relihan to learn some technical information and a great deal of practical skills.

"My challenge was to get [the physics information] on their level. I enjoyed it," he said.

#### Summer programs to be expanded

The PSC is working to expand its Summer Fellowship program, which it hopes will encourage FWS students to participate in community service work. This program pays students for 10 weeks during the summer to help community and non-profit organizations.

The goal of the program is to better community organizations, even after students leave their summer positions. "When [the students] leave, the agency is better off," Susnowitz said.

#### FWS part of financial aid

Through the FWS program, undergraduate and graduate students with financial need can work either at their school or in the community to earn money to help pay education expenses. Only students with FWS in their financial aid package can receive payment for community service activities.

Smith said that FWS community service students must be doing work that benefits the public. For example, a student working in a museum is doing community service work because the museum is open to the public.

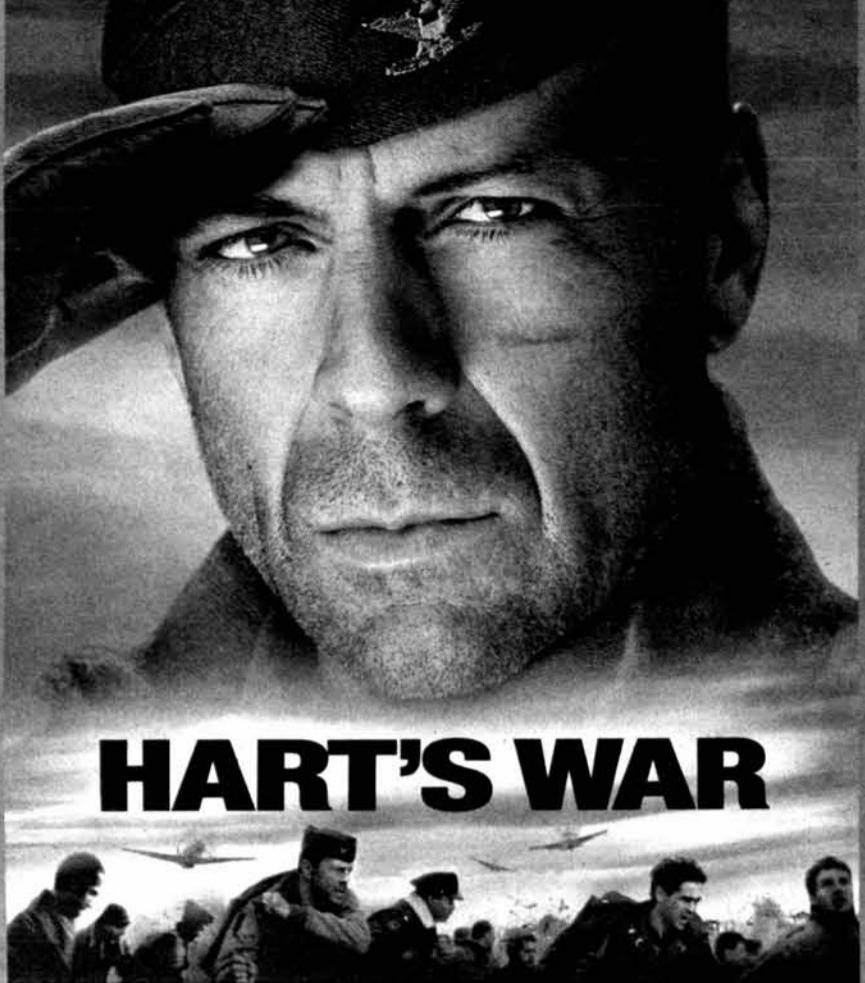
Some universities comply with this by employing students in the university libraries since, technically, the libraries are open to the public. According to Smith, MIT does not do this because this would "water-down" the community service experience.



Karolina Wozniakiewicz, winner of the Boston Conservatory Concerto Competition, performs Liszt's "Piano Concerto No. 2 in A" under the baton of MTSO Director Dante Anzolini last Thursday night in Kresge, during a joint Boston Conservatory-MTSO concert.

<img alt="A large, stylized, handwritten 'Thank You' is written across the top of the page

# BRUCE WILLIS



## HART'S WAR

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PEDRO L. ARRECHEA—THE TECH  
A mass of players scrambles for a rebound at MIT's net during Tuesday night's game against the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. MIT won 64-51.

## UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

**Friday, February 8**

Pistol, Collegiate Sectional Match, 6:00 p.m.



**Saturday, February 9**

Men's Basketball vs. Clark University, 2:00 p.m.  
Men's and Women's Gymnastics vs. University of Vermont, 2:00 p.m.  
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Springfield College, 7:00 p.m.  
Indoor Track, MIT Coed Invitational, 12:00 p.m.

**Sunday, February 10**

Pistol, Collegiate Sectional Match, 9:00 a.m.



### MIT Emile Bustani Middle East Seminar

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